

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

- 5 1. An illuminated grab handle assembly for mounting to a surface and
for use with a power source, the grab handle assembly comprising:
 a handle member;
 a mount assembly receiving an end of the handle member and adapted to be
mounted to the surface;
- 10 an illumination source positioned between the mount assembly and the
handle for illuminating the handle member, the illumination source adapted to
be electrically connected to the power source; and
 a light sensor for detecting an ambient light and generating an output signal
corresponding to the detected ambient light;
- 15 a switch for receiving the output signal and operably connected to the
illumination source, the switch adapted to open and close the electrical
connection between the illumination source and power source;
 wherein the switch opens and closes in response to the output signal
received from the light sensor.
- 20 2. The illuminated grab handle assembly claim 1 wherein the switch is
integrally formed with the light sensor.
3. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 1 wherein the light
25 sensor is connected to the mount assembly and has a light sensitive surface
exposed to the ambient light.
4. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 1 wherein the mount
assembly includes a base and an overcap removably attached to the base for
30 enclosing the illumination source within the base assembly.

5. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 4 wherein the light sensor is connected to the overcap.

5 6. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 4 wherein the light sensor is connected to the base.

7. An illuminated grab handle assembly for mounting to a surface, the grab handle assembly comprising:

10 a handle member;
a mount assembly receiving an end of the handle member and adapted to be mounted to the surface;
an illumination source positioned between the mount assembly and the handle for illuminating the handle member; and
15 a power source attached to the mount assembly and electrically connected to the illumination source.

8. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 7 wherein the power source comprises a battery.

20 9. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 7 further comprising a switch electrically connected to the illumination source for opening and closing the electrical connection between the illumination source and the power source.

25 10. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 9 wherein the switch comprises a light sensor.

30 11. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 9 wherein the switch is manually operated.

12. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 7 wherein the power source comprises a rechargeable battery and the assembly further comprises:

5 a solar panel mounted to the mount assembly and exposed to ambient light for generating an electrical current, the solar panel electrically connected to the rechargeable battery such that the solar panel is adapted to recharge the battery in the presence of ambient light.

10 13. An illuminated grab handle assembly for mounting to a surface, the grab handle assembly comprising:

a handle member;

a mount assembly receiving an end of the handle member and adapted to be mounted to the surface;

15 an illumination source positioned between the mount assembly and the handle for illuminating the handle member; and

a rechargeable battery mounted to the mount assembly and electrically connected to the illumination source for illuminating same;

20 a switch operably connected to the illumination source for opening and closing the electrical connection between the illumination source and the rechargeable battery;

a solar panel for generating an electric current mounted to the mount assembly and electrically connected to the rechargeable battery for recharging the rechargeable battery.

25 14. The illuminated grab handle assembly of claim 13 wherein the switch comprises a light sensor.

15. The illuminate grab handle assembly of claim 13 wherein the switch is manually operated.